

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 241325Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6816

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI VISIT TO MALTA

REF: VALLETTA 0629

1. THE GOM DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION ISSUED THE FOLLOWING  
JOINT COMMUNIQUE CONCERNING THE MAY 21-23 VISIT TO MALTA  
BY COLONEL QADHAFI:

"AT THE INVITATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF MALTA, ANTHONY MAMO, PRESIDENT MUAMMAR EL QADHAFI,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL OF THE  
LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC, PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO MALTA  
BETWEEN 22 - 24 JAMAD ALAWAL 1396 A.H., CORRESPONDING  
TO THE 21ST - 23RD MAY, 1976 A.D. THE PRESIDENT AND  
HIS DELEGATION WERE ACCORDED A WARM WELCOME BY THE  
GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF MALTA. THROUGH THIS  
WELCOME, THE MALTESE PEOPLE DEMONSTRATED THEIR APPRECIATION  
OF THE FIRST SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION AND OF ITS LEADER,  
COLONEL MUAMMER EL QADHAFI. AN APPRECIATION RESULTING  
FROM THE GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY, THE COMMON ETHNIC ORIGIN,  
AND THE DESTINY UNITING THE MALTESE AND ARAB PEOPLES AND  
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PARTICULARLY MALTA AND THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC.

THE PEOPLE, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA HAVE SHOWN THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE LEADER OF THE FIRST SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION, COLONEL QADHAFI, BY BESTOWING UPON HIM MALTA'S HIGHEST AWARD, "GIEH IR-REPUBBLIKA". COLONEL QADHAFI, ON HIS PART, AVAILED HIMSELF OF A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO ADDRESS THE PEOPLE OF MALTA.

COLONEL QADHAFI DISCUSSED WITH PRIME MINISTER DOM MINTOFF BILATERAL RELATIONS, ARAB AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THE LEADER OF THE FIRST SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION AS WELL AS THE MALTESE PRIME MINISTER REGISTERED THEIR MUTUAL SATISFACTION AT THE GREAT PROGRESS MADE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AND REAFFIRMED THEIR COMMON AIM TO COUNTER ALL FORMS OF HEGEMONY. COLONEL QADHAFI REITERATED HIS COUNTRY'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MALTA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING MALTA'S POLITICAL NEUTRALITY.

THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO PERSEVERE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FREE THE MEDITERRANEAN FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES, THEREBY TURNING IT INTO A LAKE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, AND SERVING AS A MEDIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

THE TWO SIDES EXAMINED THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN THE ARAB REGION RESULTING FROM THE ZIONIST, COLONIALIST AND RACIST AGGRESSION TO THE DETERIMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ARAB NATION. IN THIS RESPECT, THE TWO SIDES REAFFIRMED THEIR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT FOR THE JUST AND LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIANS AND THEIR RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND IN ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS.

THE TWO SIDES EXPRESSED A KEEN INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPING SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHERE THE AFRICAN PEOPLE ARE STRUGGLING AGAINST COLONIALISM AND RACISM. THEY CONDEMN THE IMPERIALIST RACIST REGIME IN THE AREA AND IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO SUPPORT THE UST STURGGLE OF THESE PEOPLE.

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THE TWO SIDES REAFFIRMED THEIR BELIEF IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER WHICH WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE INTERESTS OF THE THIRD WORLD AS AN EMERGENT ECONOMIC POWER. THEY EXPRESSED THE ATTACHMENT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES TO THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND THEIR SUPPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO ACHIEVE THE RIGHT OF HUMANITY TO FREEDOM, PROGRESS AND

JUST PEACE.

THE TWO SIDES REAFFIRMED THEIR BELIEF THAT THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES DUE TO BE HELD IN COLOMBO IN AUGUST 1976 THE TWO SIDES PLEDGED THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE CONFERENCE AND TO ENSURE ITS SUCCESS. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO SEEK REFORMS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS TO ENSURE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEMBER STATES.

THE TWO PARTIES EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE POSITIVE RESULTS ACHIEVED DURING THIS VISIT IN CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND OTHER FIELDS. IN PARTICULAR THE TWO SIDES HAVE AGREED ON THE PROCEDURES TO ATTAIN AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE.

PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF PUT ON RECORD THE APPRECIATION OF THE PEOPLE OF MALTA FOR THE CONTINUED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC. PRESIDENT QADHAFI ON HIS PART EXPRESSED HIS WARM GRATITUDE AND THAT OF HIS DELEGATION FOR THE FRIENDLY WELCOME EXTENDED BY THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF MALTA.

PRESIDENT QADHAFI EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC. THIS INVITATION WAS WARMLY ACCEPTED AND THE DATE FOR THE VISIT WILL BE FIXED IN DUE COURSE."

2. COMMENT: GOM APPARENTLY CONSIDERS THE "CONTINENTAL SHELF" DISCUSSIONS TO HAVE BEEN A MAJOR ASPECT OF  
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QADHAFI'S VISIT. GOM DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION EVEN ISSUED A SEPARATE PRESS RELEASE STATING THAT MINISTER BEN AMER OF LIBYA AND MINISTER WISTIN ABELA OF MALTA HAD "SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURES TO ATTAIN AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT" OF THIS ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, NO DETAILS OF THE "AGREEMENT" HAVE YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC. WIGGINS

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